

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Confirmation No.: 3512
Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.)
Application No.: 10/678,299) Examiner: Gene M. Munson
Filed: October 6, 2003) Group Art Unit: 2811
For: ELECTRO-OPTICAL DEVICE AND)
ELECTRONIC DEVICE) Date: September 27, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initial a copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

In the IDS's filed thus far in this application, the Examiner crossed through several of the listed documents that have filing dates or publication dates that occur after June 4, 1999, and included the notation "filed after 6/04/1999." However, Applicant has not relied upon nor perfected the priority filing date of the priority document, JP 11-158787, filed in Japan on June 4, 1999, in connection with the pending claims of the present application. As such, the Examiner should consider any listed document having an intervening publication date or filing date.

Also, the attached PTO 1449 forms list U.S. Application No. 11/074,687, which was filed on March 9, 2005, and corresponds to U.S. 2005/0161672 A1 as listed on the PTO 1449 filed on November 18, 2005; and U.S. Application No. 11/258,933, filed October 27, 2005, which corresponds to 2006/0097256 A1 as listed on the PTO 1449 filed on June 14, 2006. Both of the patent application publications were struck-through by the Examiner with the notation "considered via the present application." Also, listed U.S. Application No. 10/754,702, filed January 12, 2004, which corresponds to US 2004/0141139 A1 as listed in

the IDS filed on October 5, 2005, and struck-through by the Examiner because it was considered via U.S. Patent No. 6,355,942. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider these now listed corresponding pending applications, including the pending claims.

U.S. Patent No. 6,977,394 to Yamazaki et al., filed January 8, 2003, corresponds to US 2003/0155573 A1 as submitted on March 8, 2005; U.S. Patent No. 6,965,195 to Yamazaki et al., filed February 15, 2001, corresponds to US 2002/0125817 A1 as submitted on March 8, 2005; and U.S. Patent No. 6,426,517 to Hayakawa et al., filed December 13, 2000, corresponds to US 2001/0000627 A1 as submitted on January 20, 2004. Each of these corresponding patents indicate a same assignee with the present application. Likewise, U.S. Patent No. 6,274,887 B1 to Yamazaki et al., filed November 1, 1999, which was listed in the IDS filed on March 8, 2005, and U.S. Patent No. 6,730,966 B2 also indicate a same assignee. The Examiner struck-through each of these patent publications and patents, and indicated that they were each “filed after 6/04/1999.” Also, Application Nos. 09/432,662, 09/580,485, and 09/587,396 each are assigned to the same entity as the present application, and were listed in an IDS filed on January 20, 2004. Listed U.S. Application No. 11/079,840 corresponds to 2005/0156174 A1 as listed on the PTO 1449 filed on Nov. 18, 2005. The Examiner crossed through these application/application publication citations and indicated they were filed after June 4, 1999. However, it is believed the Examiner should consider these applications, patents, including the patented or pending claims, because these applications were copending with the present application. In addition, because Applicant has neither relied upon nor perfected the priority filing date of the priority document in connection with the pending claims of the present application, the Examiner should consider any of these documents having intervening effective filing dates.

U.S. Patent No. 6,204,535 B1 to Yamazaki et al., filed January 3, 2000, and U.S. Patent No. 6,166,397 to Yamazaki et al., filed January 4, 1999, were listed in an IDS submitted on February 24, 2006; U.S. Patent No. 6,703,643, filed November 29, 2000, was listed in the IDS filed on December 13, 2004; and U.S. Patent No. 6,011,607, filed February 15, 1996, was listed in an IDS filed on October 5, 2005. The Examiner struck-through these listings and indicated that the information was considered via corresponding U.S. Patent Nos. 6,013,930, 5,895,935, 6,355,942, and 6,355,942, respectively. However, these patents also indicate a common assignee with the present application. Thus, it is believed these patent themselves, including the patented claims, should be considered.

Additionally, upon review of the IDS filed on October 5, 2005, Applicants noticed that the PTO 1449 form lists US 2004/0196220 A1 ("the '220 publication") as being "considered via correspond. US 6,355,942." However, this patent does not appear related to the '220 publication. Therefore, the Examiner should consider this listed document or provide a correct corresponding document citation.

Finally, it is noted that with respect to the citation of document JP 05-080712 in the February 24, 2006, PTO 1449 form, the Examiner indicated the information was considered via corresponding US 5,515,632. It is believed the Examiner intended to indicate US 5,151,632. The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm this assumption.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

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